

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A computer-implemented method comprising:
encrypting a group of multimedia channel keys using a first type of encryption to produce a first group of encrypted multimedia channel keys;
encrypting said group of multimedia channel keys using a second type of encryption to produce a second group of encrypted multimedia channel keys;
concurrently transmitting said first group of encrypted multimedia channel keys with said second group of multimedia channel keys to a plurality of multimedia subscribers having multimedia receivers capable of decrypting either said first group of encrypted multimedia channel keys and/or said second group of multimedia channel keys.
2. The method as in claim 1 wherein said second type of encryption is digital video broadcasting ("DVB") encryption.
3. The method as in claim 1 further comprising:
transmitting entitlement information with said group of multimedia channel keys encrypted using said second type of encryption, said entitlement information indicating which of said multimedia channels a user has the right to decrypt.
4. The method as in claim 3 further comprising:
decrypting said second group of encrypted multimedia channel keys at a multimedia receiver.
5. The method as in claim 4 further comprising:

searching said entitlement information to determine whether said user has the right to view a particular channel selected by said user; and

decrypting said channel using one of said decrypted keys if said user has said right.

6. A method comprising:

receiving a plurality of encrypted keys, each of said keys for decrypting a respective plurality of encrypted multimedia channels;

decrypting said encrypted multimedia keys;

using said decrypted multimedia keys to decrypt one or more of said multimedia channels;

re-encrypting said multimedia channels using an alternative encryption technique; and

storing said re-encrypted multimedia channels on a mass storage device.

7. The method as in claim 6 wherein said alternative encryption technique is DES encryption.

8. The method as in claim 6 further comprising:

decrypting one or more of said multimedia channels using said alternative decryption technique responsive to a user request to view said one or more multimedia channels.

9. The method as in claim 6 wherein decrypting comprises:

reading entitlement information identifying multimedia channels which a user has a right to view; and

decrypting only those decryption keys for multimedia channels identified by said entitlement information.

10. The method as in claim 6 wherein decrypting comprises:
reading entitlement information identifying multimedia channels which a user has a right to view;
decrypting all keys associated with said multimedia channels; and
using only those decryption keys for multimedia channels identified by said entitlement information.

11. A system for processing multimedia channels comprising:
transmitting decryption keys for decrypting said multimedia channels, said keys encrypted in both a first encryption format and a second encryption format;
said keys encrypted in said first encryption format being decryptable by a first type of multimedia receiver; and
said keys encrypted in said second encryption format being decryptable by a second type of multimedia receiver.

12. The system as in claim 11 wherein said second encryption format permits all of said keys to be decrypted in real-time as they are received by said multimedia receiver.

13. The system as in claim 12 wherein said second encryption format is digital video broadcast ("DVB") encryption.

14. The system as in claim 11 further comprising:
transmitting entitlement information indicating which of said multimedia channels a user has a right to view.

15. The system as in claim 14 further comprising:
said second type of multimedia receiver decrypting only those keys identified by said entitlement information.

16. The system as in claim 14 further comprising:
said second type of multimedia receiver decrypting said decryption keys and using said decryption keys to decrypt multimedia channels identified by said entitlement information.

17. The system as in claim 11 further comprising:
said second type of multimedia receiver decrypting one or more of said keys and using said one or more keys to decrypt one or more multimedia channels; and
said second type of multimedia receiver re-encrypting said multimedia channels using an alternative encryption format.

18. The method as in claim 17 wherein said alternative encryption format is digital video broadcast ("DVB") encryption.

19. The method as in claim 17 further comprising:
storing said multimedia channels in said alternative encryption format on a mass storage device.

20. The method as in claim 19 further comprising:

decrypting and playing back one or more of said multimedia channels from said mass storage device responsive to a user request to play back said one or more of said multimedia channels.

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